



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Council on Aging Minutes 03/15/2001

Members Present: Kathy McMahon, Harry McCabe, Mary Dodge, Hannah Simon, Phil Mercandetti, Mildred Hurd, Richard Murray

Members Absent: Harry Barber

Others Present: John Jope (COA Executive Director), Maureen Jackson (COA Secretary), Patsy Kraemer (Director of Human Services), Philip Farrington (Town Manager), Roland Chaput (Symmes 21 Acquisition Committee)

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Kathy McMahon, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
A quorum of 7 was present

New Town Manager: The Council members introduced themselves to Philip Farrington, the new Town Manager. Mr. Farrington said he was pleased to be invited to the meeting and any way he could help or anything he could do, just let him know. Harry McCabe suggested they meet at a later date for an hour or two informally to discuss COA issues. Mr. Farrington said that was a good idea. Patsy Kraemer told the Council that the Town Manager had signed the papers necessary in order to have Jackie Keshian's position filled.

Public Forum: Roland Chaput gave a presentation and asked the Council's support for the acquisition of Symmes' property by the Town of Arlington. Roland told the Council a presentation will be held at the Senior Center on March 27 at 2:30 PM to discuss the town acquisition of the Symmes property.

Minutes of February 21 Council Meeting: It was MSV to accept the minutes as corrected with the change under CDBG funding to state: the Council asked that \$10,000 for Assisted Living Task Force be left in 2002 proposal until John talked to Alan McClennan regarding this matter.

REPORTS

Executive Director's report: John reported COA would probably not be able to keep our current senior aide. The Senior Aide Program has tightened their policies. However there is a possibility we could keep her if there is a medical condition or changing jobs would cause physical hardship. John said he would investigate this fully. Rules have changed and are being strictly enforced. If the local program, Cambridge and Somerville Elder Services doesn't show a certain percentage of placements in two years, National will pull the program from them and give it to another group.

Finance Committee: Richard reported he had met with John and everything looked okay except for the negative amount in Formula Grant under Salaries and Wages. John then explained the comptrollers office has been over drawing out of Elder Affairs for Lourie's and Jackie's salaries and under drawing out of the Municipal Account. About 4 weeks before the end of this fiscal year, John will figure out how much should be grey billed out of the Municipal Account and put back into Elder Affairs to wash at the end of June. Harry M. asked the source of Transportation Subsidy Fund. John answered that it was all from private donations. Richard noted the Sevoyan Fund had a slow growth month in February.

Sevovan Bequest Committee: No Report

Transportation Group: No Report

Needs Assessment Committee: Mary reported they have put 176 surveys into the computer. She also went to three apartment buildings in Arlington and left surveys at each and will pick them up next week. Mary also left some surveys at the library, but did not

get any back from there. So far the biggest complaint is parking.

Assisted Living/Housing Options Task Force: Meeting rescheduled to March 28 at 7:30 PM. John said part of the reason Alex wanted to have a meeting was that they hadn't met in about a year, and may ask the Task Force if they want to make a final report to the selectmen and then disband.

Minuteman Senior Services: (no report)

COA representative to ASA: (no report)

ASA representative to COA: (no report)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Minuteman Board vacancy from Arlington COA: Maureen will put an article in the Advocate stating the COA is looking to appoint someone to represent the Town of Arlington at Minuteman Senior Services.

Exec. Director's memo "Agency Goals" dated May 18, 2000: (tabled and taken off the agenda)

Formation of Town Day Committee: John reminded the Council that last fall they discussed the idea of forming a Town Day Committee. When the Council forms a committee, John said he and the staff would support them. It will be our 35th anniversary this year and Harry Barber had suggested it would be nice to do something special.

COA Council Vacancy: Richard made a motion to keep the size of the Council at nine. Hannah seconded that motion. A vote was taken. Vote was unanimous in favor. John will send a new letter to Phil Farrington regarding this decision and thanking him for quick response to our other letter.

ANY NEW BUSINESS

CDBG funding for COA, fiscal year 2002: John reported the Selectmen's hearing to accept proposals is Monday, March 26. Copies have to be Alan's office by March 19. It is helpful if 2 or 3 board members along with John could attend this meeting for support and to answer any questions the selectmen might have. We are requesting \$5000 more in FY 2002 for Adult Day Health Scholarships. These have been level funded for several years, however the rates for day care and transportation costs have been increasing for CESI clients. More clients are in need of subsidy. There is a request for \$1000 more for Volunteer Coordinator for new pay scale step raise. Richard made a motion to endorse the CDBG funding request of 2002 submitted by the COA. Mildred seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Elder Affairs Formula Grant for FY2002: Application for Formula Grant has not come yet. E.O.E.A. has decided to wait until the 2000 census figures are in. The \$51,600 in Elder Affairs we usually receive might be cut if Arlington's senior population is down.

Senior Services Directories: Richard left the motion on the table to appropriate \$1500 out of the Gift Fund for 1000 more directories if outside funding doesn't come. Harry M. seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Community Interfaith Breakfast: Richard made a motion to spend \$150 out of the Gift Fund for 10 tickets for seniors and the COA Executive Director. Harry M. seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Harry Barber Memorial: Harry McCabe said the selectmen would like to dedicate a room at the Senior Center in memory of Harry Barber, either the drop-in room on the first floor, or a room at the COA. Harry M. suggested naming the Senior Reimbursement Program after Harry Barber.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary _____

